



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Health Care Quality and Cost Council
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Chair

KATHARINE LONDON
Executive Director

Communications and Transparency Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

One Ashburton 21st floor, room 1
Boston, MA

Committee Members Present: Quentin Palfrey (chair), JudyAnn Bigby, Elizabeth Capstick, Kevin Beagan, Katharine London, Robert Seifert, and Gregory Sullivan.

Meeting called to order at 3:15pm

I. Approval of Minutes of Committee Meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of its October 3, 2007 meeting.

II. Principles for Selecting Quality Measures for Council Website

John Freedman walked the committee through the proposed principles for selecting quality measures for the Council's website. The former Quality Committee adapted these principles from those recommended by Dana Safran.

The Committee made a number of wording changes in order to clarify the principles and make them easier to apply to potential measures.

III. Cost Data Transparency Issues

The Committee discussed the effectiveness of Cost Data Transparency and its impact on consumer's choice and decision-making processes. Although there is currently not a whole lot of data in this area, studies of consumer psychology and economic theory may improve our understanding of how consumers and others might use cost data. The Committee will look into best practices for displaying cost data (types of measures, level of aggregation, format) to increase transparency and avoid unintended consequences, such as actually causing an increase in health care costs.

IV. Draft Statistical Plan Submitted by the Council's Data Manager vendor, the Maine Health Information Center

Committee reviewed and discussed the Draft Statistical Plan and cover memo submitted by the Maine Health Information Center and suggested holding a Technical Advisory Group meeting to review the technical documents in more

detail. The full Statistical Plan is available on the Council's website at www.mass.gov/healthcare.

V. Discussion of Scope of Work for Analysis Vendor

Committee reviewed and discussed the draft task list for the Analysis Vendor. Members suggested that the Technical Advisory Group provide input on the draft task list before moving forward. Katharine London is working to make sure that the RFP is developed to capture the full scope of service for the Analysis vendor. Any Additional recommendations should be sent to Katharine for review.